

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/015,688

Applicant(s)

YAMADA, MAIKO

Examiner

Art Unit

Jose L. Couso

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/27/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 35-54.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit: 2621

1. Claims 35-54 are allowed.
2. Applicant's arguments, see page 6, lines 2-5, filed July 27, 2005, with respect to claims 1-4, 13-15 and 24-26 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-4, 13-15 and 24-26 has been withdrawn.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of the record fail to teach or suggest singly and/or in combination an image compression method and apparatus which provides for performing a pixel thinning-out operation and compressing image data, a part determining a position of pixel be thinned out, first dividing pixels into a plurality of same-size rectangular blocks along a horizontal direction and a vertical direction, and regularly repeating the thinning-out operation and compressing image data, and part determining a position of pixel be thinned out alternatively, wherein the thinning-out operation provides for thinning out pixels located at a right side of a target block when a block located immediately above has pixels thinned out from a left side, and the determining a position provides for thinning out pixels located at a left side of a target block when a block located immediately above has pixels thinned out from a right side as prescribed for in independent claims 34 and 46, and an image compression method and apparatus which provides for performing a pixel thinning-out operation and compressing image data, a part determining a position of pixel be thinned out, first dividing pixels into a plurality of same-size rectangular blocks along a horizontal direction and a vertical direction, and regularly repeating the thinning-out operation and compressing image data, and part determining a position of pixel be thinned out alternatively, wherein the thinning-out operation provides for

Art Unit: 2621

thinning out pixels located at an upper side of a target block when a block located immediately left has pixels thinned out from a lower side, and the determining a position provides for thinning out pixels located at a lower side of a target block when a block located immediately left has pixels thinned out from a left side as prescribed for in independent claims 35 and 47.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

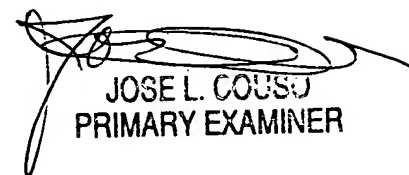
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jose L. Couso whose telephone number is (571) 272-7388. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso, can be reached on (703) 272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the USPTO contact Center whose telephone number is (703) 308-4357.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jlc
September 16, 2005


JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER